



## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

|                             |                        |  |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|
| <b><u>Course:</u></b>       | <b>EDZU 9108</b>       | <b>Understanding the Needs of the LGBTQ+ Student</b> |
| <b><u>Credit Hours:</u></b> | 3.0 credits / 45 hours |  |
| <b><u>Instructor:</u></b>   | Carol Bottstein        |  |

### **Course Description**

This relevant and informative course is necessary for all educators to better understand the specific needs and challenges of the LGBTQ+ student. In addition to learning the many terms, phrases and symbols associated with the LGBTQ+ individual, we will explore facts and myths, look at our own hidden biases and review past perceptions and scientific research regarding sexual orientation and gender identity. We will discuss current federal laws and school policies, examine significant events and outcomes resulting in change, study influential LGBTQ+ individuals and their accomplishments, and understand the importance of allyship and the LGBTQ+ student. This interesting and valuable course will enable you to enhance communication, create a safe, accepting learning environment, as well as support and provide resources for students and families.

### **Course Goals**

#### **To Know**

1. The many terms, phrases and symbols associated with the LGBTQ+ student
2. The specific challenges such students face
3. Facts and myths surrounding the LGBTQ+ student
4. Past perceptions and scientific research regarding sexual orientation and gender identity

#### **To Understand**

1. The importance of allyship and the LGBTQ+ student
2. Federal laws and school policies
3. Significant events and outcomes resulting in change, as well as influential LGBTQ+ individuals and their accomplishments

#### **and To Be Able To**

1. Create a safe and accepting learning environment
2. Enhance communication skills
3. Offer support and resources to students and families

## Course Outline

- I. Introduction to LGBTQ+
  - Proper terminology
  - Definitions
  - Symbols
- II. Facts and Myths
  - Past perceptions
  - Scientific research
  - Specific challenges and needs
  - The transitioning student
- III. Classroom Culture
  - Recognizing our own biases
  - Creating an accepting learning environment
  - Allyship and the LGBTQ+ student
  - Enhancing communication
- IV. Policies and law
  - Explore federal laws and school policies regarding bullying and the LGBTQ+ student
  - Identify current local LGBTQ+ issues
  - Significant events and outcomes resulting in change
- V. Accomplished individuals/resources
  - Influential LGBTQ+ individuals and their accomplishments
  - Resources and support for students, families and educators

## Methods of Instruction

Teachers enrolled in this course will evaluate their own hidden biases, learn the many terms, phrases and symbols associated with the LGBTQ+ community, explore the specific challenges such students face, review past perceptions and scientific research regarding sexual orientation and gender identity, learn how schools/educators can create a positive classroom climate as well as provide support, discuss current policies and laws, study influential LGBTQ+ people and their accomplishments, and be provided with resources. This will be accomplished via assigned readings, media presentations, classroom discussion forums and instructor provided materials.

*Students will connect with each other throughout the course within forums and various other types of online feedback options built into each class.*

## Methods of Assessment

*In order to achieve an A in class, a student must complete all the assigned readings and assignments, participate in all discussion forums, and complete two final papers demonstrating understanding and knowledge of the course, as well as the ability to apply what was learned in their educational setting.*

*In order to achieve a B in class, a student must complete all of the assigned readings and assignments, participate in all discussion forums and complete one final paper.*

*Instructors are online each day of the course and correspond with students through the course itself, feedback on assignments, e-mail, and by phone.*

### **Time Validation**

| <b>Assignment</b>  | <b>Time<br/>(in hours)</b> |
|--|----------------------------|
| Student will participate in a class forum regarding introduction to the LGBTQ+ student, family and community   | <b>2.00</b>                |
| Student will study, learn and demonstrate knowledge of the proper terminology, meanings, definitions and symbols associated with the LGBTQ+ individual | <b>5.00</b>                |
| Student will watch and react to media enhancing an LGBTQ+ student  | <b>2.00</b>                |
| Student will research the difference between sexual orientation vs gender identification, as well as past perceptions vs scientific findings           | <b>3.00</b>                |
| Student will examine and discuss the specific challenges including bullying: as well as needs of the LGBTQ+ student                                    | <b>2.00</b>                |
| Student will be presented with a case study to review and analyze  | <b>4.00</b>                |
| Student will participate in a forum regarding classroom culture  | <b>1.00</b>                |
| Student will explore and reflect on their own hidden biases/stereotypes  | <b>2.00</b>                |
| Student will learn about the importance of allyship and safe spaces  | <b>2.00</b>                |
| Student will discover ways to enhance communication with the LGBTQ+ student  | <b>2.00</b>                |
| Student will demonstrate the ability to apply the above principles in their educational setting  | <b>1.00</b>                |
| Student will participate in a forum regarding policies and laws  | <b>1.00</b>                |
| Student will examine and report on laws pertaining to the LGBTQ+ individual and student  | <b>2.00</b>                |
| Student will research and present school policies regarding the LGBTQ+ student   | <b>2.00</b>                |
| Student will explore and discuss current LGBTQ+ issues local to them   | <b>2.00</b>                |
| Student will study significant LGBTQ+ events and react to and discuss the outcomes   | <b>2.00</b>                |
| Student will explore and react to influential LGBTQ+ individuals and their accomplishments   | <b>2.00</b>                |
| Student will research, review and discuss resources for students, educators and families   | <b>2.00</b>                |
| Student will participate in a final class forum  | <b>2.00</b>                |
| Student will complete a final research paper demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of the course   | <b>4.00</b>                |
| <b>Total Time</b>  | <b>45.00</b>               |